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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/711,480

09/21/2004

Bodgan Radu

MASL-55

5479

37690

7590

06/23/2006

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EXAMINER

TRUONG, BAO Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/711,480

Applicant(s)

RADU ET AL.

Examiner

Bao Q. Truong

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/21/04 10/6/04 10/26/04 4/27/05
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I including claims 1-8 in the reply filed on 6/16/2006 is acknowledged. Claims 9-11 have been canceled.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because "comprises" should be changed to --has-- or --includes--. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk et al. [US 6,315,436] in view of Anderson, Jr. et al. [US 6,464,381].

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Schenk et al. discloses an automotive interior trim assembly having a support [interior body structure of a vehicle], a storage compartment [11] having a compartment body with a first connecting member [19] integrally formed therein defining a cavity [13, 14] and an opening [15] with a second connecting member

[22] integrally therein for gaining access to the cavity, the first connecting member [19] cooperating [transmitting and reflecting light] with the second connecting member, a cover [16] coupled to the compartment body [at 17] moveable between an open position and a closed position, and a shining lamp [18] molded to the compartment body to illuminate the cavity [13, 14] when the cover [16] is in the open position (figure 1, column 2 lines 40-65, column 3 lines 1-22). Schenk et al. does not clearly disclose the electroluminescent lamp.

Anderson, Jr. et al. discloses an electroluminescent lamp [12] in a vehicle interior lighting system (abstract, figure 9, column 2 lines 5-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the shining lamp of Schenk et al. with the electroluminescent lamp as taught by Anderson, Jr. et al. for purpose of minimizing an aesthetic impact of a light source when not in use and that requires negligible space behind an interior trim assembly where the light source is located.

Regarding claim 2, Schenk et al. discloses the shining lamp [18] being molded to the compartment body (figure 1).

Regarding claim 3, Schenk et al. discloses the shining lamp [18] being molded to the compartment body and a reflector [22] being mold to the cover [16] (figure 1). However, Schenk et al. does not disclose the shining lamp [18] being mold to the cover. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the reflector with the shining lamp to directly illuminate the cavity for purpose of saving structure and lower manufacturing cost.

Regarding claim 4, Schenk et al. discloses an electric circuit for the lamp (column 3 line 7).

Regarding claim 6, Schenk et al. discloses an electrical switch [20] having open and close position to energize/de-energize the lamp (figure 1, column 3 lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 7, Schenk et al. discloses an electrical switch [20] having open and close position to energize/de-energize the lamp corresponding to open and close the cover [16] (figure 1, column 3 lines 1-15).

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk et al. [US 6,315,436] and Anderson, Jr. et al. [US 6,464,381] in view of Kimisawa [US 5,158,353]

Regarding claim 5, Schenk et al. (or Anderson, Jr. et al.) discloses a power source [a battery of the vehicle], a compartment body [11], a lamp [18], and a support structure [interior body structure of a vehicle] but does not clearly disclose the first electrical connector coupled to the compartment body and the lamp and the second electrical connector coupled to the support structure and to the power source, wherein the first connector is electrically coupled to the second electrical connector when the compartment body is coupled to the support so as to energize the lamp.

Kimisawa discloses the first electrical connector [at 11b] coupled to the compartment body [6] and the lamp [11] and the second electrical connector [electrical

connector to the vehicle's battery] coupled to the support structure [vehicle body structure] and to the power source [the vehicle battery], wherein the first connector is electrically coupled to the second electrical connector when the compartment body is coupled to the support so as to energize the lamp [while a separate control switch turned on] (figures 1-3, column 3 lines 7-15).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the compartment body and the support structure of Schenk et al. with the first and second electrical connectors as taught by Kimisawa to complete a circuitry for activating the lamp in order to provide an advantageous way of turn on a light source in a darkness conditions.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ciarrocchi Jr. [US 6,786,614] discloses a beverage container holder and lighting arrangement having selectively activated light source.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bao Q. Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2383. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bao Q. Truong
Examiner
Art Unit 2875



Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800